

Abraham Lincoln papers

From John Pettit to Abraham Lincoln, February 23, 1861

Washington City

Washington House

Feby. 23, 1861

Sir;

I beg you will read this short letter. My name is before the Senate for Dist. Judge of Kansas. All the Democratic Senators, except Douglas, are for my confirmation & I fear all the Republican Senators are against me. I am sure I shall be defeated unless two or three Republican Senators can be induced to withdraw or refuse to vote against me. Douglas opposes me because I wrote letters last summer against him & in your favor. Shall he have the fiendish pleasure of defeating me, and will you & your friends assist him to do it, or will you & they come to my rescue? At Springfield you told me that you wanted I should have that office. It is an easy matter for you to accomplish before your Administration commences, by making it a point, at once, with some of your Senatorial friends. I know there is no man who is more sincerely at heart your friend than I am, or who more ardently wishes you a successful administration than I do; and will you not do this kindness for me? I make this last appeal. Unless you help me I am ruined.

The difficulty of having an early interview with you here induces me to write this letter.

I am truly your friend and

obedient servant

John Pettit